

[SRP file copy]

10-08-1984

Donald —

My state of mind at the moment is one of jubilation: my opus 40 has been successfully microfilmed and tomorrow I will place the originals in a bank vault. At 8 AM. this morning I drove out of the yard here and headed for Hazleton, where I arrived around 9:30 AM. For five hours I processed the microfilm of opus 40 and had two of the six rolls re-copied — the ^{positive microfilm} copy was not dark enough. Just as you did several years ago when the bulk of the CPL nineteenth-century newspapers were microfilmed, I too have established a reputation at Micrographics of being very very fussy about what I will and will not accept as far as quality goes. When I arrived there this morning, I was greeted by a micrographics team that was to cater to my every whim; the sales representative (Tricia Wright), two lab technicians (Ruth? and Linda Bonner) and a Canon representative who enthusiastically cleaned and dusted the reader/printer that I was to proof the 6 rolls of opus 40. They were all wonderfully cooperative and anxious to please, and at the end of my 5-hour session, I virtually floated out the door. Contained in opus 40 are all of my personal writings from October 13, 1981 to May 8, 1984; all of the issues of Northeastern Pennsylvania; all of the issues of the Carbondale Mirror; all of the issues of the Carbondale News published between May 4, 1983 and May 2, 1984; and various copies of ten different northeastern Pennsylvania newspapers (including the bundle that were saved by Margaret Gillespie Lake Russell). The production of very good copies of the 13 issues of Northeastern Pennsylvania was a high priority — the copies from which the microfilm was produced were my originals that were sent to the printer & so the microfilm copy is beautiful.

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I am probably the only person who has all 31 issues of the Carbondale Mirror, and now that is microfilmed. Opus 40 contains 3,053 frames at \$.175 each equals \$534.28 for producing the microfilm original; the six duplicate rolls each cost \$20.97 for a total of \$125.82; and so — the original + one positive microfilm copy cost a total of \$660.10. Most people spend that kind of money on color television and reclining chairs and household/automotive paraphernalia — I, on the other hand, spend that kind of money to produce archival film copies of various chapters of my autobiography. Just to "keep the ball rolling," as it were, I delivered a large bundle of additional materials to Micrographics today for microfilming — my personal papers for the period May 8, 1984 — October 7, 1984. While at Micrographics I ordered, for the CPL, a Canon 380 Reader/Printer, at a cost of over \$4,000. That, and my latest bundle for microfilming, should be delivered in about two weeks. As you know, mother always explains the behavior of the present generation in terms of some ancestor, e.g., "you take after your Uncle Don," or "you get your love of fishing from your Uncle Theobald." My "recording fever" that has overtaken you and me clearly "comes from" MESL, TOL, ELL, EPS, among others. Wouldn't ELL & EPS, ^{in particular,} be pleased at how you and I have "turned out." You and I are the only two "recorders" in the family today. Who will pick up the gauntlet when you and I are no more? That is impossible to fore-tell. What is certain is that the "recording" must continue, and continue it will. Regards — SRP.

P.S. — Enclosed is a copy of P. 8 of McGinnis, Tim of 07-28-84 — please note "Walden rises" photo of SRP.